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REPORT

OF

THE MANAGERS

OF THE

NORTH-CAROLINA BIBLE SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR 1820:

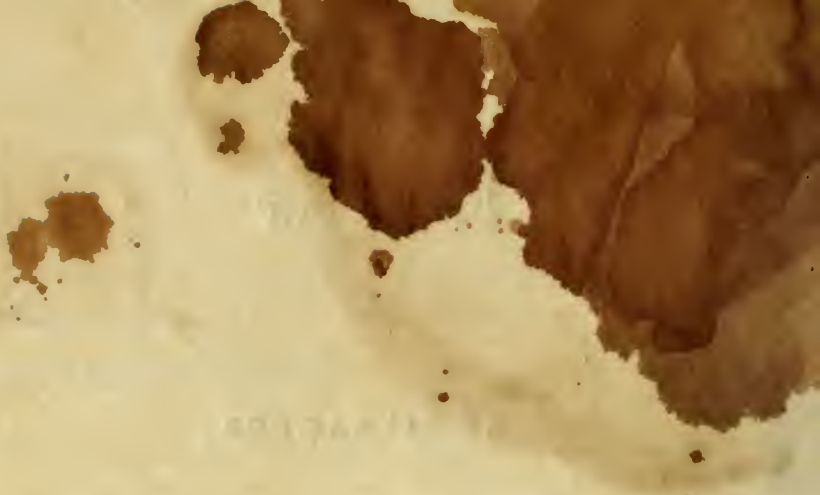
AT THEIR

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

RALEIGH:

PRINTED BY J. GALES.

1821



REPORT.

THE Managers of the Bible Society of North-Carolina present to their constituents the following Report.

We have great reason for gratitude to God that among the efforts which are making in all parts of the world to give a universal circulation to the Holy Scriptures, our Society has been permitted to have some humble share, and has been favoured with a good degree of success. It appears from the Report of the Secretary, that in the course of the past year, he has had applications for, and has accordingly distributed, two hundred and twenty-one copies of the Bible and New Testament. The whole number of copies of the Bible or parts thereof, distributed by the Society since its institution, has been about fourteen hundred.

When it is considered that there are at least eight other Bible Societies in the State, it will probably be thought that the success and utility of this Society have been as great as could have been expected among a population as dispersed as ours. Whether it has been owing to a previous supply of Bibles, or to a want of estimation for them, that the calls upon the Society have not been greater, deserves inquiry and research; and the Managers would recommend to all the Members of the Society to endeavour to ascertain the real situation of their several neighborhoods in this respect. It will be seen by a reference to the Treasurer's Report, that after all the expenditures of the past year, there remains a considerable surplus in the Treasury, which would have enabled the Society to put into circulation almost twice the number of Bibles actually distributed. If there should be no larger demands upon the Society for such copies of the Scriptures as it at present possesses, it will deserve consideration, whether the surplus funds of the Society would not be well applied in purchasing of the American Bible Society, editions of a larger size and type, which would render them far more acceptable to the aged.

The Managers have been sorry to learn, that there prevails, in some parts of the country, an unhappy and most groundless suspicion, that the distribution of the Bible by this Society has originated in selfish motives; and benevolent individuals who have been active in carrying into execution the object of the Society, instead of receiving the thanks due to their bene-

ficence, have been accused of wishing to make a private profit by the sale of Bibles; although in all cases the purchasers have been allowed to pay as small a sum as they pleased, or have been offered them gratuitously. It would be sufficient to put an end to such unjust suspicions, if those who entertain them would reflect, that each copy of the Scriptures costs the Society as much as it ever receives for them, even when the full price is paid; and as that very rarely happens, and almost all the Bibles are distributed gratis, or for sums far below the original cost, they will easily see, that very nearly the whole cost of the Bibles annually distributed, is paid out of the funds of the Society, for which they receive no return and expect no recompence, but the approbation of Heaven, and "the luxury of doing good." The receipts into the Treasury for Bibles distributed during the past year, have been less than twenty five dollars, while the disbursements of the Society to purchase Bibles have been two hundred and eighty-three dollars. It is hoped this statement will have the effect of removing entirely the groundless prejudices above alluded to.

In looking beyond the bounds of our own necessarily limited operations, we are happy to observe the zeal and progress of others who are engaged in the same blessed work. The records of the American Bible Society announce among their auxiliaries seven Bible Societies of this State, which, since their union with that grand institution, have poured into its Treasury, the sum of two thousand two hundred and thirty-one dollars; receiving in exchange as many copies of the Scriptures as they called for, on the cheapest terms, and of the best workmanship.

The American Bible Society during the four years of its existence, has emitted more than *ninety seven thousand* copies of the Scriptures, either in whole or in part; of which, it is a source of sincere joy to remark, that nearly eight hundred copies are in the Delaware and Mohawk languages, two of the principal dialects of the Indian tribes, and thus, we trust, will many of the poor wanderers of the forest be made acquainted with Him who "came to seek and to save that which was lost." "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desart shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

We hail with exultation the magnificent course of this National Institution, as a vast honour and blessing to our country, from whose auspicious commencement we may augur a maturity of splendour and solidity hardly inferior to that of its grand prototype the British and Foreign Bible Society.

While the American Institution, from its local station, possesses advantages for ascertaining the wants of the Western Continent, and will take care that its inhabitants are supplied with the bread of life, the British and Foreign Bible Society and its able coadjutors are making ample provision for the population of the old world. The British Institution, the noblest of the kind in the world, the parent, the model and the generous nourisher of all others, has been the means of translating the Scriptures into a *hundred and twenty-seven different languages;* and from the zeal and wisdom of its members, the extent of its grasp, and the prodigious opulence of its resources, it gives the world a flattering promise that through its instrumentality will be brought about the final consummation of prophecy and christian hope, when "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

Later in birth, but parallel in course, and emulous in usefulness and renown, we behold the Bible Society of Russia; which, though only in its infancy, has already presented the Scriptures in their native tongues, to *twenty-six* different nations of that immense empire.

In Catholic France and Catholic Germany, we witness the advancing triumph of religious light over the darkness and bigotry of ages; and every year, among its most interesting communications, the British and Foreign Bible Society announces the labours and success of Catholic Priests in the dissemination of the Bible among the laity.

In contemplating such a spectacle, how can we suppress the strongest expressions of gratitude and praise to Him, who has thus set the world in motion to forward and accomplish his kind purposes of redemption to mankind; and our fervent prayers for the continuance of that divine protection and blessing which have given to the Bible Cause throughout the world a rapidity of conquest and a benignity of operation, which have put its enemies to shame, and even distanced the anticipations of its most sanguine friends. Never was there any cause so well calculated to make Christians of all denominations "of one heart and one soul." "This," to use the expression of the earl of Harrowby at the last anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, "This is a point on which we may all assemble and unite with heart and hand; a point not chosen for the purpose of fixing a lever to subvert or destroy the world, but a point on which the centre of gravity of that world must rest: a point round which all its discordant elements may range themselves in harmony and peace."

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

RALEIGH, December 11, 1820.

The Secretary of the North-Carolina Bible Society reports to the annual meeting of said Society the following statement of the receipt and distribution of Bibles during the past year.

To whom distributed.	Octavo Bibles.		Duodecimo Bibles.		English Testaments.		German Testaments.	
	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.
On hand at last general meeting,	6		32		48			
1819.								
Dec. 15—Received from Philadelphia,			150				50	
16—Rev. S. Kollock,								3
1820.								
Jan. 7—By Jas. Gibson, Stokes,				6				
By Rev. W. M'Pheeters,		1						
Feb. 26—By Mrs. Anderson, Warrenton,						6		
April 11—By Gotleib Shober,						12		12
May 6—By Rev. J. Witherspoon,				12		12		
27—By ditto,				3		3		
By George Brasfield, Wake,				10		5		
By Rev. J. H. Pickard,				12		6		
By Rev. Saml. Paisley,				12		6		
By Capt. Mark Myatt,				10		4		
By Rev. C. A. Hill, Warren,				15		3		
By Rev. A. Clopton, Milton,				15				
By Rev. D. Shine, Lewisburg,				12				
Aug. 10—By John Chavis,				4				
Sept. 23—By Greensborough Auxiliary Society,				20				
Oct. 12—By Rev. L. Skidmore,				2				
16—By John Whitfield, Granville,				4				
By individuals,				11				
	6	1	182	148	48	57	50	15
	1		148			48	15	
On hand,	5		34			9	35	

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The North-Carolina Bible Society in account current with Benjamin S. King, Treasurer, for the year 1820.

DR.

1820, Feb. 2—To cash paid Joseph Gales, Esq. Secretary, for the purchase of Bibles, as per receipt,	$ 108	00
Dec. 9—To do. do. for the same purpose,	115	00
To do. paid Joseph Gales, Esq. his account for freight of Bibles, publishing Report of Society, &c.	60	50
To balance in the hands of the treasurer,	178	59
	$ 462	09

CR.

By balance on hand, as per Report of 1819,	$ 148	94
By first dividend on 17 shares of the capital stock of the Bank of Newbern,	51	00
By second ditto ditto,	59	50
By amount collected at Anniversary Sermon for 1819,	80	00
By cash received from Greensborough Bible Society,	20	00
By two life subscribers,	16	00
By annuities &c. for 1819, at Raleigh,	41	30
By ditto, from Salem,	41	00
By cash received from Mark Myatt, for Bibles and Testaments sold,	4	35
	$ 462	09

OFFICERS

Of the Society for the year 1821.

REV. JOSEPH CALDWELL, D. D. President.
REV. WM M'PHEETERS, D. D. } Vice-Presidents.
REV. G. T. BEDELL, }
J GALES, Secretary.
BENJAMIN S. KING, Treasurer.

The Board of Managers.

JOHN HAYWOOD,
WILLIAM POLK,
HENRY POTTER,
D. CAMERON,
WILLIAM SHAW,
WILLIAM PEACE,
JEREMIAH BATTLE,
REV. WM. HOOPER,
REV J. AVERY,
REV. S. KOLLOCK,
REV J. WITHERSPOON,
T. P. DEVEREUX,
WILLIAM HILL,
SAMUEL KING,
F NASH,
CHARLES F. BAGGE.

DIRECTIONS TO AGENTS FOR DISTRIBUTING THE BIBLES OF THE SOCIETY.

Extracted from a late Circular of the Managers.

"In distributing the Books it is the first wish of the Board, that the poor and destitute should be supplied. Whenever, therefore, you meet with persons able and willing to read the Scriptures, yet unable conveniently to purchase them, you will please to furnish such freely at the expense of the Society. But should you fail in finding proper objects among whom to distribute books gratuitously, in that case you are authorized to dispose of them at some reduced price, according to the ability of the applicant.* "It is believed that there are many persons who would gladly purchase the Scriptures at cost, or at a reduced rate, who from an honest feeling of independence, or some other motive, would be unwilling to ask for, or even receive them as a free gift. This numerous class of persons should undoubtedly have an opportunity of being supplied with the Bible, and of participating in its consolations, on conditions within their reach, and compatible with their feelings. It is moreover believed, that, in many cases, the Bible would be more highly prized where the owners have paid a consideration for it, however small, than where it costs them nothing.

"After supplying gratuitously, or at reduced prices, the more destitute part of your neighborhood, should any Bibles or Testaments remain on hand, then whole families, Sunday Schools and other Schools may be furnished at the Society's price, viz: 75 cents for Bibles and 30 cents for Testaments.

"With respect to slaves applying for Bibles or Testaments, you must be regulated by the circumstances of the case, and your own views of propriety. The Managers are of opinion, that few masters, if applied to, would refuse to furnish such of their slaves as are able to read, with copies of the Scriptures at the Society's price. But should instances of such refusal occur, let not the charity of the Society be withheld in any case where there is reason to believe that a good use would be made of the book.

"The annual meeting of the Society is held in Raleigh on the 2d Monday of December, the Managers will, therefore, expect to receive from you, at least a month before that time, a brief report on the subject of your agency, viz: The number of Bibles and Testaments disposed of gratuitously, with a separate account of those given to people of colour—The number of copies sold, with the receipts in favor of the Society, and the number of copies, if any, still remaining on hand. Information respecting destitute neighborhoods where the Scriptures might be advantageously distributed, and of persons willing to become Agents for the Society, would also be thankfully received."

* From 25 to 75 cents for Bibles; and from 10 to 30 cents for Testaments.